

# Call&Care

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Search for  
a Good  
Listener

Not everyone is good at listening even if they think they are.

There are a number of different types of people when it comes to the types of conversations that they have.

I am sure we have all encountered them at some stage.

## 1. The person who asks but does not want a response

This person initially shows all the signs of wanting to show an interest in you but as soon as you pick up on the “How are you?” questions, their eyes glaze over, their mind is elsewhere, and you soon realise that their heart is not in it.

## 2. The person who asks with the intention to speak about themselves

This person asks and initially waits for you to respond, only to then pick up on your response as an excuse to pour out their own thoughts and feelings.

Rather than offering a place for you to be listened to, they are looking for an audience, an opportunity for themselves to offload.

## 3. The person who wants to rescue you

This person sees it as an opportunity to come to rescue you and save you from your situation or yourself.

They are convinced that they are the emergency service you essentially need and without whom you are lost

## 4. The person who promises the earth

It is very easy to want to please people and some people are very good at making promises as to what they can or will do and how often - beyond what they are permitted or able to offer.

By doing this they raise expectations which in the short term offer hope, but when not fulfilled this leaves the recipient disappointed.

## 5. The person who wants to sort you out

There are some people who believe they have all the answers to life, the universe and everything, and that they know how to fix us: “The answer is (dot, dot, dot...)”, and if their advice is followed then everything will be all right.

## 6. The Bible Basher

I am always very cautious about this person.

There is a fine line between trusting and believing in God and his word and taking it to the degree of the Bible-Basher. This person takes the truth of the word of God and instead of using it for encouragement and edification turns it into a blunt instrument leaving the recipient with concussion instead of being uplifted.

There is also a variant of this - someone who is a Bible-prescriber and has a word for everything even if it is out of context and inappropriate.

## 7. The person who has no underlying agenda

This is the ideal person to be a good listener. They ask the question “How are you?” and wait to receive a response.

They then show a real interest in how the person is and what is happening in their life.

They will ask secondary facilitative questions based on what they hear – not interrogative nor unnecessarily personal, but just enough to help the person know they have been listened to, and that there is an opportunity to share further.

They make the person feel safe and cared for, which encourages them to share further.